



Ward Notification

Tucson Fire Department

Fire Chief Patrick Kelly



Contact: Captain Trish Tracy
(520) 410-1901 Pager

Date: March 4, 2009

Ward 1 – Guest House Fire – 1600 Block of West Saint Clair Street

March 4, 2009

Dispatch Time – 1436
On-Scene Time – 1442
Fire Under Control – 1449

There were multiple calls to 9-1-1 reporting a guest house on fire with a man possibly still inside. One neighbor, who also called 9-1-1, knocked on windows and doors to alert occupants. One woman was inside the front residence, where the porch had caught on fire, and escaped without injury.

Firefighters arrived on scene to find the guest house fully involved with fire, a corner of the porch to the main residence was burning, the fire was spreading to the main house, and there were reports of a man possibly still inside the guest house. Twenty-three firefighters and eight units searched for the man multiple times and were unable to locate him. It was later determined that he and his wife were not home when the fire started. No injuries occurred.

Power was disconnected to both homes and five people have been displaced until repairs are complete.

A total of five people were displaced. Red Cross will be assisting the two people from the guest house with food, clothing, shelter, and medications. The three family members from the main home will be receiving assistance with shelter.

Cause – Accidental – electrical arc from overloaded extension cords.

Damage estimate - \$60,000 – The guest house was completely destroyed.

Safety Message: Extension cords are not designed to be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when plugging items into these cords. Overloading cords can cause a fire. Placing cords through windows, under rugs, or in areas where they can become damaged could cause a fire. Replace cords when damaged.